FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, March 14, 2006

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Markups: Subcommittee on Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack

WHO: **Subcommittee on Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack Chairman John Linder (R-GA)**

WHEN: **5:30 pm, Tuesday, March 14, 2006**

WHERE: **1310 Longworth House Building**

BACKGROUND

The Subcommittee on Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack will meet to consider three measures: "Prevention of Nuclear Terrorism Act of 2006," "Project BioShield Material Threats Act of 2006," and a requirement for an "Annual Report to Congress from the Directorate of Science and Technology."

The "Prevention of Nuclear Terrorism Act of 2006" will establish the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Key provisions include: developing a global nuclear detection architecture; implementing the domestic portion of the architecture; performing transformational research and development to improve detection; providing operational support and training; and maintaining situational awareness of the nuclear and radiological threat.

The "Project BioShield Material Threats Act of 2006" will amend the Project BioShield Act of 2004 to enable DHS to better carry out its responsibilities under this Act. Key provisions include: directing the use of risk assessments to accelerate Material Threat Assessments (MTAs) and Material Threat Determinations (MTDs); setting a deadline for the completion of MTDs for certain chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) agents; and prioritizing the MTA and MTD process to facilitate consideration by the Department of Health and Human Services of countermeasures against a broad-spectrum of threats and lead to a more efficient and strategic use of the federal government's resources for CBRN defense.

The measure requiring an "Annual Report to Congress on the Directorate of Science and Technology" will provide information about DHS's Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate**'s** activities, programs, and portfolios. The Report will also identify how each of these functions fit into the S&T's organizational structure and mission.

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